

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-6 and 10 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 7-9, 11 and 12 are currently being amended.

Claims 13-17 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 7-9 and 11-17 are now pending in this application.

Objection to Title:

In the Office Action, the title of the invention as objected to as not being clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directly. By way of this amendment and reply, a more descriptive title is being submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, claims 3-4, 6 and 10-12 were objected to because of minor informalities found in those claims, as noted on page 2 of the Office Action. With respect to now-canceled claims 3-4, 6 and 10, this objection is now moot. With respect to presently pending claims 11 and 12, those claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted in those claims.

Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims 1-6:

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-6, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0133153 to Shinoda. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 7 has been amended to recite a radio reader, a radio writer, an image forming unit, an optical reading unit, an operational mode setting unit, a first control unit, and a second control unit. With respect to an exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, the radio reader corresponds to element 22b, the radio writer corresponds to element 23b, the image forming unit corresponds to element 23a, and the optical reading unit corresponds to element 22a. With respect to the exemplary embodiment (flow chart) shown in Figure 6 of the drawings, the operational mode setting unit corresponds to step S31, the first control unit corresponds to step S35, and the second control unit corresponds to step S36.

The above description of features of claim 7 with respect to an exemplary embodiment of the invention is being made in order to make it easier to understand features of the present invention (so as to better understand the differences between claim 7 and the cited art of record), and is not meant to limit that claim to just the exemplary embodiment.

Turning now to the cited art of record, Shinoda describes a system for checking an original recorded information. Shinoda does not teach or suggest a radio writer which writes data on an IC chip embedded in an image forming medium. Shinoda does not teach or suggest a copying process with an original that includes an IC chip and an image forming medium that includes an IC chip. Furthermore, Shinoda does not teach or suggest the writing of either: a) the image data on a surface of the original, or b) the data read from the IC chip in the original, on the IC chip of the image forming medium, based on an operational mode. Still further, Shinoda does not teach or suggest a printing process by which there is printed either: a) image data on the surface of the original, or b) the data read from the IC chip in the original, on the surface of the image forming medium, based on an operational mode.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 7 patentably distinguishes over Shinoda.

Presently pending dependent claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 depend from claim 7, and thus those claims are patentable for the reasons given above with respect to claim 7, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims.

New Claims:

New claims 13-17 have been added, whereby these new claims are also believed to patentably distinguish over Shinoda. For example, new independent claim 13 recites, among other things, an optical reading unit, a radio reader, an image forming unit, a radio writer, an operational mode setting unit, a first control unit, and a second control unit. For reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claim 7, claim 13 is patentable over the teachings of Shinoda.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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